## Message Text

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**ACTION EUR-25** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01

NIC-01 ACDA-19 NEA-10 IO-14 DRC-01 /146 W ------ 047946

R 111752Z APR 74 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4304 INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE AMCONSUL ZAGREB AMCONSUL TRIESTE DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: ZONE B DISPUTE

REF: ROME 4819

- 1. FONOFF (PIETROMARCHI) HAS FILLED US IN ON SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THOSE REPORTED REFTEL. AS FIRST POINT, PETROMARCHI SAID DECISION TAKEN NOT TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO SURFACE RECORD OF SECRET TALKS SINCE CONS CLEARLY OUTWEIGH PROS AT THIS TIME. NEVERTHELESS, WORK GOING FORWARD ON COMPILATION OF WHITE BOOK SHOULD DECISION BE REVERSED OR SHOULD BELGRADE MAKE PRE-EMPTIVE MOVE.
- 2. RETURNING TO QUESTION OF POSSIBLE ARAB INVOLVEMENT IN DISPUTE, PIETROMARCHI SAID THAT AMBASSADOR MILESI FERRETTI HAD RECENTLY CALLED ON EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY TO SET FORTH ITALIAN VIEWS ON THE ISSUE. DURING COURSE OF HIS PRESENTATION, MILESI NOTED ANALOGY BETWEEN YUGOSLAV POSITION ON ZONE B AND ISRAELI CLAIMS CONCERNING ARAB LANDS UNDER TEL AVIV'S CONTROL (ROME 4740). FAHMY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT. AFTER GIVING MILESI SYMPATHETIC HEARING, FAHMY REASSURED ITALIAN AMBASSADOR THAT SADAT HAD NOT TAKEN PRO-YUGOSLAV POSITION ON THE DISPUTE DURING HIS TALKS CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH TITO ON BRIONI. ISSUE HAD NOT COME UP IN THEIR PRIVATE

TALKS AND SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE LENDING SUPPORT TO YUGOSLAV TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IN GENERAL TERMS HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY THE PRESS.

- 3. TURNING TO ITALIAN REPLY TO YUGOSLAV NOTE OF MARCH 30, PIETROMARCHI SAID THAT DRAFT HAD BEEN PREPARED ALONG CONCILIATORY BUT FIRM LINES OF ALL GOI NOTES AND STATEMENTS SINCE MARCH 11. ONLY ADDITIONAL POINT WHICH COULD RANKLE WAS PORTION WHICH ADDRESSED BELGRADE'S NEWLY-REVIVED QUESTIONING OF STATUS OF ZONE A. IN REPLYING TO THIS POINT, DRAFT TOOK POSITION THAT, IN ABSENCE OF CREATION OF FREE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE, ITALIAN SOVEREIGNTY REMAINED OVER ENTIRE AREA. PIETROMARCHI SAID FINAL DECISION ON INCLUSION OF THIS POINT STILL UP IN THE AIR, AND HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE IT REMOVED GIVEN DESIRE AT HIGHER LEVELS OF GOI TO COOL DISPUTE.
- 4. REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS, PIETROMARCHI SAID THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD MADE SUCH PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH ITALIANS UNDERSTOOD THAT YUGOSLAVS WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH MORO.HOWEVER, MORO IS NOT DISPOSED TO BEGIN TALKS AS LONG AS BELGRADE CONTINUES CURRENT POLEMICS.
- 5. FINALLY, PIETROMARCHI SAID ITALIANS HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT YUGOSLAVS

ARE TRYING TO GET ARABS TO REDUCE PETRULEUM SUPPLIES TO ITALY.

6. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT INCLUSION IN NEXT ITALIAN NOTE OF ASSERTION OF RESIDUAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL TRIESTE AREA CAN ONLY FAN FLAMES OF CURRENT DISPUTE. HOPEFULLY, INTERVENTIONS HERE AND IN WASHINGTON (DCM WITH DUCCI AND STABLER WITH TAMAGNINI) WILL HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON CABINET CONSIDERATION OF NOTE, ANTICIPATED FOR TODAY. VOLPE

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